

## OPENING DOORS TO THE COMMUNITY

### IMPROVING LIVES

**H**uman Services' mission is to provide exceptional programs and services to all Bloomington residents. By acting as a catalyst to enhance the quality of life and services for residents through education, community partnerships, advocacy and resources, Human Services accomplishes this mission.

For more information on the programs listed throughout these pages, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740 or visit the City's website at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us). To receive e-mail updates, go to the City's website, click on [E-Subscribe](#) and sign up for "Human Services."

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.**

AUGUST 2010

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## MINNESOTA DRUG CARD PROGRAM

### FREE PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE



**E**very resident is eligible to receive a Minnesota drug card through the free Prescription Assistance Drug Card

Program. There are no restrictions, no age or income requirements and no exclusions. The Minnesota drug card provides discounts on brand name and generic medications at participating pharmacies.

The program is funded through support from pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies. For more information, visit [www.minnesotadrugcard.com](http://www.minnesotadrugcard.com).

## DISCUSSIONS ON PEACE BUILDING GREAT DECISIONS CITIZEN EDUCATION PROGRAM



**T**he Human Rights Commission will host a Great Decisions event, **Tuesday, September 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**, at Fire Station #1, 10 West 95th Street.

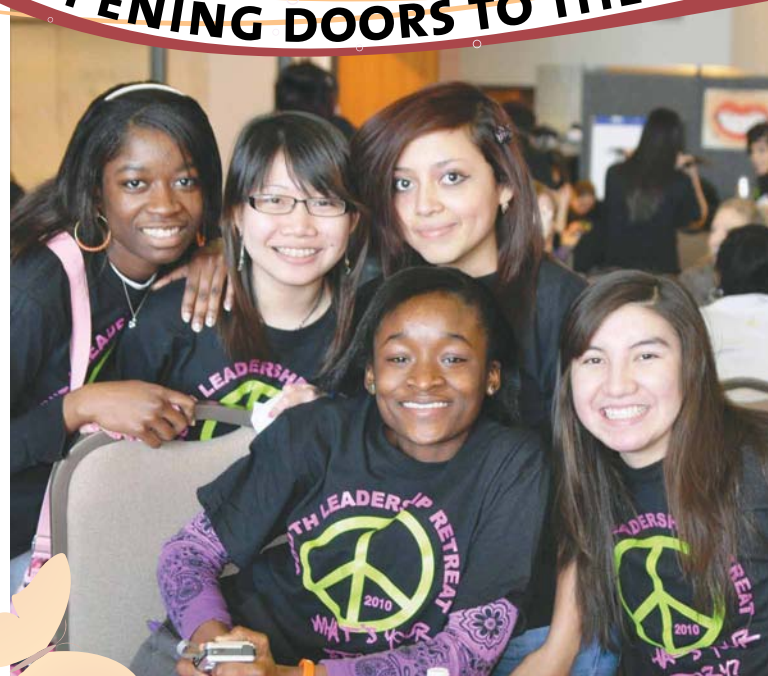
Great Decisions is a dynamic citizen education and discussion program, sponsored nationally by the Foreign Policy Association and coordinated locally by the Minnesota International Center. For more information, contact the Human Rights Commission at 952-563-8733.



### E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

**D**id you know you can receive electronic updates about Human Services information on your computer or cell phone? All you need to subscribe is a valid e-mail address.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: E-SUBSCRIBE.**



## VOLUNTEERS MATTER

### WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**E**very day in Bloomington, volunteers are improving the lives of others and bettering themselves through their unselfish and noble actions.

Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds help to make Human Services programs and events successful.

Youth volunteers such as **Bakhtawar Chaudhary**, a junior at Kennedy High School, assist in planning and implementing youth leadership events in the city.

Chaudhary started volunteering three years ago with the Human Rights Commission (HRC), when she was just 14 years old. Volunteering for the HRC, Chaudhary said, has exposed her to a new world of people and possibilities. It has also helped prepare her for the future.

"Because of my three years on the HRC, I know how to plan, raise funds

and advertise for an event," Chaudhary said. "I see how in the future I can bring awareness to important causes through special events."

*Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls.*

- David Thomas

Resident **Ruth Evangelista** became involved in the community after moving to Bloomington from her native San Juan.

Evangelista originally contacted Human Services for help assimilating to her new environment. However, nine years later she continues to volunteer to make her community a better place for her children.

### CONTACT HUMAN SERVICES

**WE'RE HERE  
2 SERVE U**

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. • Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

ONLINE

PHONE

IN PERSON

[www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), 24 hours a day

952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740,

9801 Penn Avenue South, Bloomington MN 55431-2912  
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.





GOOD FOOD, GREAT COMPANY  
DINING AT CREEKSIDE:  
IT'S MORE THAN JUST A MEAL

Enjoy delicious and nutritious meals and socialize with your friends and neighbors at Creekside Community Center. Sit-down meals are served, Monday - Friday, 11:45 a.m. Call ahead for the monthly menu.

Don't miss the upcoming "Party of the Month" and "Memorable Monday" events. These themed lunches begin at 11:30 a.m.

Meals are \$6 for guests under 60 years old; \$3 suggested donation for guests over 60 years old.

To make a reservation, call 952-563-4948 or V/TTY 952-563-4957.

RESQ FROM BOREDOM! (-.-)ZZZ

BUILDING COMMUNITY



VIRTUAL BOWLING  
NINTENDO WII LEAGUES

Stay active and get fit while playing virtual bowling. Wii bowler and group leader Liz Tschida, pictured far right in photo at left, started playing Wii bowling at Creekside in early 2009 and hasn't stopped since.

"Wii has crossed the generation gap," Tschida said. "I was surprised at how quickly I caught on. The Wii uses a motion sensitive controller that allows people to act out playing the game. Anyone can do it."

The number of Wii players has been increasing since January. Players are currently working toward expanding their league. Contact Humans Services to learn more.

GIVE YOUR BRAIN A WORKOUT  
KEEP MENTALLY FIT WHILE HAVING FUN

The touch-screen technology of the Dakim Brain Fitness System leads users through 20-minute sessions of puzzles, brain teasers and other multimedia activities. No computer experience is necessary. Individuals receive one-on-one program training. To schedule a training session, contact Human Services.



WI-FI FOR ALL  
CREEKSIDE NOW OFFERING  
WIRELESS INTERNET

Did you know wireless Internet access (or Wi-Fi) is now available at Creekside? Computers are available in the Creekside library, or bring your own laptop and relax with a cup of coffee in one of the library's lounge chairs. Wi-Fi is just one of many free services offered at Creekside.



BRIDGING THE GAP  
HELPING RESIDENTS TURN THEIR  
HOUSES INTO HOMES

What does it take to set up a living space? Bedding, linens, dishes and appliances are just the beginning. Imagine if you couldn't afford to purchase all of these items brand new. Where would you go?

Human Services and Bridging, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides furniture to families in need, are here to help. Once eligibility and furniture needs are determined by Human Services staff, families are connected to a Bridging representative to begin turning their houses into homes.

In 2009, Human Services received nearly 70 requests for a Bridging referral and conducted 28 home visits.

"More than half of our clients are children and the majority of our clients have an annual income of less than \$5,000," Bridging Executive Director Sara Sternberger said. "Unfortunately, the demand for our services continues to grow."

Bridging estimates that it recycles more than 100,000 items annually, equaling 5,550 tons of furniture that would otherwise be tossed in a landfill.

For more information or to make a donation, call Bridging at 952-888-1105 or visit [www.bridging.org](http://www.bridging.org).

:-) VOLUNTEERS R GR8!

HELPING GOOD PEOPLE CONNECT TO GOOD CAUSES

Human Services strengthens the community by providing information, access to volunteers and civic engagement opportunities for all ages. By including input from residents and employees, the services provided to the community align with the needs of the community. If Bloomington volunteers are the heart of services, then community partnerships are the backbone. Below are just a few examples of how the City works with volunteers and partner organizations to make a difference. For information on how you or your organization can get involved, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740.



BOUTIQUE HOURS AT CREEKSIDE

Monday - Friday	10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Tuesdays	6 - 8 p.m.
Saturdays	9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

During the holiday season, hours are extended. Call or visit Creekside for more information.

CREEKSIDE BOUTIQUE COMES TO FARMERS MARKET  
FIND UNIQUE ITEMS HANDCRAFTED BY SENIORS

The Creekside Boutique will travel to the Bloomington Farmers Market this fall.

Local residents will sell one-of-a-kind handmade items, including pillows, jewelry, blankets, dish towels, quilts and other unique gifts, at the Farmers Market, **Saturdays, September 4 and November 13, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Be sure to visit the Creekside



On the City's website, click on **E-Subscribe** and sign up to receive Human Services e-mail updates.

Boutique tent to see firsthand the quality crafts for purchase.

Don't forget to visit the Boutique indoors at Creekside, hours at left, to find the perfect gift for that special someone in your life this holiday season. A wide selection of handcrafted items made by local residents is always available.

GIVING THE GIFT OF TIME  
BLOOMINGTON RESIDENT KEEPS BUSY AT CREEKSIDE

After years of working as a fitting room attendant at a local department store, Cheryl, pictured left in photo at right, was told by her supervisor that her work hours were going to be drastically reduced. Just like that, Cheryl found herself looking for something to do to fill her newly acquired free time.

"I wanted to stay busy, but I was also interested in giving back to the community," Cheryl said. "A volunteer job at Creekside seemed like the perfect fit."

As an adult with disabilities, Cheryl is part of a day program that provides her with a job coach and the resources she needs to obtain a volunteer position.

Cheryl can be found Monday mornings greeting visitors and helping with a variety of tasks around the center.

According to Cheryl's job coach Stephanie Kunde-Wright, the volunteer position has allowed Cheryl to continue to be an active part of the community she loves.



"Cheryl really enjoys being with people and socializing and she feels good about giving back," Kunde-Wright said.



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## ENSURING EQUALITY FOR ALL



### DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS

#### AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Human Rights Commission and Disability Employment Awareness Committee are seeking nominations for the Business Recognition Awards given to businesses that excel in the employment of people with disabilities in Bloomington. Nominations are due **September 13**.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT.**

Since 1968, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission has advised the City Council on human rights issues. The nine-member commission also recognizes community members for their outstanding efforts in the area of human rights through the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award and the DisAbility Employment Awareness Month Business Recognition Awards.

### OMAR BONDERUD AWARD

#### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. This award is presented to an organization or individual who has made a significant contribution toward ensuring the human rights of people in Bloomington. Human rights areas for consideration may include equal opportunity employment, housing, education and any other service that affects the social well-being of the community. Nominees must live or work in Bloomington and meet other established criteria. Nominations are due **September 10**. Nomination forms are available by calling 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740 or by visiting the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: OMAR BONDERUD.**



2009 Award recipients Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS LAWS THAT PROTECT ALL CITIZENS



### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted to provide broad anti-discrimination protection for all persons with physical and mental impairments that substantially limit one or more major life activities. The ADA covers employment, public services, public accommodations, services operated by private entities and telecommunication relay services.

The City has staff with ADA training that can provide assistance, guidance and follow-up in reference to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Call Human Services if:

- You believe you have been discriminated against because of a disability.
- You are building or renovating a publicly used building and want to make sure ADA guidelines for accessibility are met.
- You are a concerned citizen who believes a public or private entity is not accessible.

The City has made a commitment to serve individuals with disabilities and to make sure every individual has access to all services, public and private.

### REPORTING A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION



The Bloomington Human Rights Commission aids and advises the City Council in ensuring all citizens have equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education and other affairs. The commission sponsors a number of educational forums and provides mediation for individuals who feel they have been discriminated against, as it relates to Human Rights laws.

For more information or to make a complaint, contact the Human Rights Commission at 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740.

## (^\_^) BSCO - XLNT XCHANG! BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION (BSCO)

### BSCO NOW ON FACEBOOK ONLINE AND CONNECTED

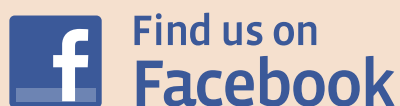


Keep up-to-date on all BSCO events and news by visiting the BSCO page

on Facebook. It's easy! If you're already a Facebook member, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and type Bloomington Sister City Organization in the search box. If you'd like, become a "fan" of BSCO and receive updated BSCO information on your Facebook page. You can also comment and share photos with other BSCO members and friends. If you're not a Facebook member, you can still view BSCO's Facebook page by visiting BSCO's website and clicking on the Facebook icon.

The BSCO Facebook page is an easy way to keep informed about upcoming activities and events.

BSCO recently updated its website. You can now join BSCO or renew your membership through a new PayPal feature. Visit [www.bloomington-izumi.org](http://www.bloomington-izumi.org).



### CULTIVATING FRIENDSHIPS AND FUN TIMES SISTER CITY PROGRAMS FACILITATE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

The Bloomington Sister City Organization (BSCO) is in the midst of a very busy summer that includes hosting Japanese delegates and sending Bloomington delegates to Izumi City, Japan. On June 15, 11 high school and college students with two chaperones went to Izumi City for two weeks. Besides a high school and college tour, the group participated in exciting cultural activities.

Izumi City Mayor Tsuji and two of his staff members visited Bloomington in July. Mayor Tsuji attended a Twins game at Target Field and enjoyed fireworks at Bloomington's Summer Fete celebration.

This August brings a high school and college delegation from Izumi City to Bloomington for a two-week stay. The students will stay with host families and participate in a variety of activities in and around the community.

Since 1993, when Bloomington began a Sister City relationship with Izumi City, BSCO has promoted international understanding through exchanges of people, information and ideas. Community involvement is essential to the program's success. Cultural exchanges and hosting opportunities take place every year in Bloomington. For a truly memorable experience, call BSCO at 952-563-8713.

### SHINE A LIGHT JAPANESE LANTERN LIGHTING FESTIVAL IS SURE TO PLEASE

BSCO will be at the annual Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival at Como Park in St. Paul, Sunday, August 15, 4 p.m. to dusk. This free event, modeled after summer festivals held across Japan, will include stage performances, cultural demonstrations, family activities and Japanese food.

For more information, call 952-563-8713 or TTY 952-563-8740, or visit [www.bloomington-izumi.org](http://www.bloomington-izumi.org).



Bloomington students spent two weeks in Izumi City.





DRIVER’S SAFETY PROGRAM

You may qualify for an auto insurance premium discount by participating in the AARP Driver’s Safety Program – the nation’s first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. Courses are offered throughout August and September.



PARTY AT CREEKSIDE

Every month Human Services hosts the Party of the Month – a dining experience, featuring a special menu, door prizes and entertainment. Meals are \$6 for guests under 60 and a \$3 suggested contribution for guests 60 and older. Reservations must be made at least two days in advance.



500/EUCHRE FUN!

Come join the fun of this challenging and social card game. Tournaments are held monthly and, for those new to the game, instructional classes are offered throughout the year.



MEMORABLE LUNCH MONDAYS

Visit Creekside for specially themed lunches on select Mondays, every month, throughout the year. The Bloomington Sister City Organization will be the focus of discussion, Monday, August 16. And you won’t want to miss the Fall Harvest Festival lunch on Monday, September 20. Meals are \$6 for guests under 60 and a \$3 suggested contribution for guests 60 and older. Reservations are required in advance.

EVENTS AT CREEKSIDE  
SEE A SHOW, TAKE A CLASS AND  
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!



On the City’s website, click on *E-Subscribe* and sign up to receive Human Services e-mail updates.

This summer and fall, residents have a variety of fun and educational ways to experience different cultures, savor good food and enjoy lively entertainment. The following events will take place at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, unless noted in the descriptions. For more information on these activities, call Human Services at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

AUGUST			
TH	5	5 p.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
TH	12	11:30 a.m.	Party of the Month
SA	14	8:30 a.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
SA	14	1 p.m.	500 Tournament
SU	15	4 p.m.	BSCO Booth at Lantern Lighting Festival <i>See page 2.</i>
M	16	11:30 a.m.	Memorable Lunch Monday
M	16	12:30 p.m.	Matinee Movie “Date Night”
TU	17	10 a.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
SA	21	10 a.m.	Fare For All Grocery Buying Program
M	23	8:30 a.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
TH	26	1 p.m.	Writer’s Club
SEPTEMBER			
W	1	10 a.m.	Get Acquainted with Creekside
W	1	1 p.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
SA	4	8 a.m.	Creekside Boutique at Farmers Market <i>See page 2.</i>
TU	7	8:30 a.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
W	8	5 p.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
TH	9	11:30 a.m.	Party of the Month
SA	11	8:30 a.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
SA	11	1 p.m.	Euchre Tournament
M	13	10 a.m.	500/Euchre Classes
SA	18	10 a.m.	Fare for All Grocery Buying Program
M	20	11:30 a.m.	Memorable Monday Lunch
M	20	12:30 p.m.	Matinee Movie “It’s Complicated”
TU	21	3 p.m.	Great Decisions – Peace Building <i>See page 1.</i>
W	22	1 p.m.	Fall Music and Variety Show
TH	23	1 p.m.	Writer’s Club
SA	25	9 a.m.	AARP Driver’s Safety Program
SA	25	1:30 p.m.	AARP CarFit Program

MARK THESE D8S  
ANNUAL EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED

OCTOBER

- Disability Employment Awareness Month.

NOVEMBER

- Veterans Photo Wall Display and Luncheon.

DECEMBER

- Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award Presentation.

FEBRUARY

- Youth Leadership Retreat.

MARCH

- Taste of Japan.

MAY

- Kite Day.
- Older Americans Month.
- Patsy Mink Presentation.

JUNE

- Global Celebration.

MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE

If you enjoy movies, don’t miss these free matinees. On Monday, August 16, 12:30 p.m., watch “Date Night,” an action comedy starring Steve Carell and Tina Fey. On Monday, September 20, 12:30 p.m., see “It’s Complicated,” a romantic comedy starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH CREEKSIDE

Come to Creekside on the first Wednesday of each month from 10 - 11 a.m., for Get Acquainted with Creekside. This program provides information about programs available to active aging adults and people with disabilities.

FARE FOR ALL

The monthly Fare for All grocery buying program is available to anyone who wants to save 30 - 40 percent on groceries. Participants who are encouraged to volunteer in their community, will receive discounts on groceries. Packages, containing fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, rice and pasta, cost \$10 - \$20. A new customer may register and prepay for food packages, August 21, then pick up their food, September 18. This program is cosponsored by the Emergency Foodshelf Network.

WRITERS’ CLUB

Explore your creative side by joining the Writers’ Club. The group meets monthly and gives participants the opportunity to experiment with a variety of writing styles.



DOES YOUR CAR FIT?

Trained AARP volunteers will take you through a 12-point checklist, Saturday, September 25, 1:30 - 5 p.m., designed to help you find the safest and most comfortable way to drive your vehicle. Volunteers will look at mirrors, headrests, seat positions and more to make sure they are adjusted properly and a good fit for your height.